

**Informative-Explanatory Essay Writing Guide (Grades 9-11)**

<b>Statement of Purpose/ Focus and Organization</b>	<b>Evidence/Elaboration</b>	<b>Editing/Conventions</b>
<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Controlling idea or main idea of a topic is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained.</li><li>Controlling idea or main idea of a topic is introduced and communicated clearly for the purpose, audience, and task.</li></ul> <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A variety of transitional strategies are consistently used to effectively clarify the relationships between and among ideas.</li><li>Progression of ideas from beginning to end is logical.</li><li>Introduction and conclusion are effective for audience and purpose.</li><li>Appropriate sentence structure variety produces strong connections among ideas.</li></ul>	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use of evidence from sources is complete and smoothly integrated and cited.</li><li>A variety of effective elaborative techniques are used.</li></ul> <p>The response demonstrates strategic use of language to produce clear communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Precise language clearly and effectively expresses ideas.</li><li>Use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.</li></ul>	<p>The response displays adequate command of all grade-level and preceding-level conventions of writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed.</li><li>Use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is adequate.</li></ul>

**References and Citations**

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).